

AUSTRALIAN HOMOLOGATION NEWSLETTER

Issue #3

ACA Labelling Notices

The Australian Communication Authority (ACA) is the Australian authority responsible for governing the requirements of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

The ACA have produced a number of Labelling Notices which are rulings produced under the applicable Acts. This is the result of ACA effort to update the Notices. The Labelling Notices determine various regulatory requirements for equipment including applicable standards, labelling and record keeping.

The relevant Labelling Notices are:

- EMC (Electromagnetic Compatibility) *Radiocommunications (Compliance Labelling – Incidental Emissions) Notice 1998*
- EMR (Electromagnetic Radiation) *Radiocommunications (Compliance Labelling – Cordless and Mobile Phones) Notice 1999*
- Radiocommunications *Radiocommunications Devices (Compliance Labelling) Notice 1996*
- Telecommunications *Telecommunications Labelling (Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Notice 1997*
- Cabling *Telecommunications Labelling (Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Notice 1997*

These Labelling Notices can be downloaded from the ACA website:

www.aca.gov.au/standards/index.htm

EMC Framework: Trans-Tasman Harmonisation Standard

Australian and New Zealand are currently working on the full harmonisation of EMC Frameworks, which will include mutual recognition and a common labelling scheme.

This was initially expected to be enacted on 1 January 1999, however amendments to the New Zealand legislation have slowed the process and the date of completion is still unknown.

EMR Standard

On 1 February 1999 the ACA introduced a ruling which limited exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation emitted from radiocommunications transmitters.

The applicable standard which was introduced was AS/NZS 2772.1 :1998 Radio-frequency fields Part 1: Maximum exposure levels 3kHz to 300 GHz.

This standard is to continue and it is anticipated that the standard will be broadened to include most cellular mobile telephone handsets, satellite phones and cordless phones.

The addition to standard AS/NZS 2772 which incorporates evidence-based exposure limits is being developed by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)

In conjunction with the expansion of the EMR standard the ACA has proposed an adoption of an industry code of practice for non-technical matters which will cover areas of community concern.

The code of practice is being developed by the Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF).

Both the Standard and the Code of Practice are expected to be released late 2000.

Current News

ATUG

The ATUG conference NOW 2000 was held in Sydney on 4th, 5th and 6th of April. Mr Reuben Medding attended. The number of exhibits was down 50% compared with previous years. DSL and WLL technology was highly visible.

Safety Reports

Equipment which has been tested and for which a CB certificate has been issued may be compliant with a requirements to meet AS/NZS3260 as an alternative to testing by an RTA to AS/NZS3260 Amendment 4. The test report shall include testing for Australian National Deviations.

Suitable CB certificates and their associated test reports can thus be used to obtain a Certificate of Approval or a Certificate of Suitability as prescribed by the State Power Supply laws.

Where compliance is voluntary such reports and a Compliance Folder will substantially enhance the manufacturers' position in the event of product liability claims related to electrical safety issues.

Impact of New RTTE on Compliance in Australia

Certain European approvals have in the past been a mechanism for securing approvals in Australia. Introduction of the new RTTE on 7 April is considered to have a potentially deleterious effect on recognised type of approvals and use in lieu of test reports. The products effected are: GSM mobile telephones, Personal Handy Phone system, Customer Equipment for DECT, CT2 and ISDN telecommunication terminal equipment.

The matter is currently being considered by a CTRAC working group so that ACA can find a legal and valid mechanism to replace the current recognised type approvals based on European type approvals.

FAQ – What labels are applicable for electronic/electrical equipment in Australia?

There are three labels for compliant equipment under the ACA regulations

1. **A-Tick:** this denotes compliance with EMC, EMR and Telecommunications requirements.
2. **C-Tick:** this denotes compliance with EMC and Radiocommunications requirements.
3. **RCM:** this is an alternate to the C-Tick and denotes compliance with EMC, Radiocommunications and Safety requirements.

The label must also identify the Importer, Manufacturer or Agent who is responsible for applying the label.

R. Medding & Associates

are a firm of Consulting Engineers, whose specialities include providing homologation advice to and maintaining Compliance Folders for Manufacturers and Importers of electrical, electronic, radiocommunications and telecommunications equipment sold in Australia and New Zealand.

All information published in this newsletter was correct at the date of publication.